

We Claim As Our Invention

Patent claims

1. A program-controlled apparatus,
having a hardware device (2a-2c, 4) for performing a
5 particular function in the program-controlled apparatus
(1), and
having control means (6, 7), program-controlled by a
piece of system software, for controlling the hardware
device (2a-2c, 4),
10 characterized by
memory means (8), permanently connected to the program-
controlled control means (6, 7) locally, for storing
individual user data defining the respective user's
possible scope of use of the program-controlled
15 apparatus (1), the program-controlled control means (6,
7) driving the hardware device (2a-2c, 4) only within
the scope of use defined by the individual user data.
2. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in
claim 1,
20 characterized
in that the program-controlled control means (6, 7)
comprises a central control unit (6) and a database (7)
which provides operating data for the system software,
the central control unit (6) being designed such that
25 it accesses the individual user data stored in the
memory means (8) and, on the basis of this individual
user data, reads out particular operating data which is
stored in the database (7) and corresponds to the
respective user's possible scope of use of the program-
30 controlled apparatus (1), and drives the hardware
device (2a-2c, 4) on the basis of this operating data
read out.
3. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in
claim 2,
35 characterized
in that the database is part of the system software (7)
for the program-controlled apparatus (1).

4. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized

in that the operating data stored in the database defines all the service features offered by the program-controlled apparatus (1).

5. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized

10 in that the individual user data stored in the memory means (8) defines the service features of the program-controlled apparatus (1) which are only accessible to the respective user.

6. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized by

15 identification means (9) for inputting an identification code, the program-controlled control means (6, 7) being designed such that they allow the hardware device (2a-2c, 4) to be controlled independently of the individual user data stored in the memory means (8) if the identification code input using the identification means (9) matches a particular prescribed access code.

25 7. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in claim 6 and one of claims 2-5, characterized

in that the program-controlled control means (6, 7) are designed such that they allow the hardware device (2a-2c, 4) to be controlled on the basis of the entire operating data stored in the database, independently of the individual user data stored in the memory means (8) if the identification code input using the identification means (9)

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matches the particular access code.

8. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in claim 6 or 7, characterized

5 in that the identification means (9) comprise a smart card reader.

9. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized

10 in that the memory means (8) are incorporated in the backplane of the central control unit (6).

10. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized

15 in that the memory means (8) comprise a memory chip.

11. The program-controlled apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized

20 in that the program-controlled apparatus (1) is a program-controlled telecommunications system, the hardware device (2a-2c, 4) comprising switching means (4) for setting up a communication link between the subscribers associated with the telecommunications system.